

Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services' Third Quarter 2015 Newsletter

Commercial vehicle titles
Fuel and registration trip permits
International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

Travel authority
Permits for over dimensional loads
International Registration Plan (IRP)

October 2015



IFTA Third quarter 2015 tax return deadline Monday, Nov. 2

Online processing is required for all IFTA

quarterly tax returns, renewals, requests for more decals, and IRP renewals and supplements.

Supported Internet browsers are Microsoft® Internet Explorer® (IE) Google Chrome™, or Mozilla® Firefox® – newer IE versions may need to run in the compatibility mode. You must allow **pop-up windows for the online IFTA/IRP applications to work.**

Use the same Account ID (client ID) and password you use to file your IRP renewal and supplements online. **Don't wait until the last minute to request a password – all you have to do is** email omcs@dot.iowa.gov and provide your Client ID number, your email address where a temporary password can be emailed, and your telephone number.

To file online: 1) Go to www.iowadot.gov/iftairp; and 2) The next window to appear is the “hub” of the online application where you will sign in to the application and find the “IFTA online reference guide.” It is recommended you go through the reference guide and FAQs for any questions you may have. Detailed steps on completing the IFTA tax return begin on page 5 and end on page 11 of the guide. Follow each step until you receive the message “**Record successfully updated.**”

Payments should be made in full and in a timely manner to avoid penalty and interest. Acceptable methods of payment are:

- Dwolla (online payment option).
- Escrow account (online payment option).
- Check, money order, or cashier check.
- *Credit card or electronic check number (\$2.50 or 3.75 percent fee added, whichever is greater).
- *T-check, Comcheck, or electronic funds source (EFS) check number.

*Call 515-237-3268 to use these options.

Dwolla has implemented flexible account limits on your Dwolla Account. What does this mean for you?

- Your Dwolla account can receive/send any amount.
- There are no transaction limits.
- There are no transaction fees, all payments are free.

Effective Jan. 1, 2016, charter buses will no longer be exempt from IRP requirements. Currently, registration in the IRP for chartered buses has been optional. Effective Jan. 1, 2016, non-government-owned buses transporting chartered parties to any destination outside of Iowa will be required to be registered under the IRP and display the corresponding “apportioned” plates.

The IRP community implemented the Full Reciprocity Plan (FRP) effective Jan. 1, 2015. The FRP is more efficient and flexible for member jurisdictions and registrants by granting full reciprocity for all apportioned vehicles registered under the IRP in all member jurisdictions.

How will FRP work?

- Registration fees are based on your fleet's actual distance for the reporting period; you do not have to estimate distance.
- Only new carriers without an IRP history pays fees based on the Iowa average per-vehicle distance chart for the initial application.
- Carriers are registered under the FRP rules when they renew their IRP during the calendar year 2015.

- Carriers may want to review their weight groups for possible duplicates or to combine them to eliminate the number of weight groups in your fleet.
- Weights under FRP will default to the “max gross weight” of that weight group unless the weight is over the maximum weight for a certain jurisdiction, then it will default to that jurisdiction's maximum weight.
- If there is a 10 percent variance, an explanation will be required.
- Weights may not be dropped to empty weights due to not operating in certain jurisdictions. Please check these closely, as you will be charged for that weight for all distance reported.

To view a short FRP presentation, go to the Office of Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services' website at: www.iowadot.gov/iftairp. To access more resources, go to: www.irponline.org/?page=FRPBallot.

IFTA 2016 Renewal: 2016 is fast approaching and that means your license and decals for IFTA will need to be renewed prior to expiring on Dec. 31, 2015. Be watching your mailbox for your IFTA 2016 renewal to be sent at a later date.

Unified Registration System (URS): Federal rule making has created the URS system to be implemented in stages through April 25, 2016. The purpose of the URS is to replace certain existing federal systems with a single, online, federal system. Below are some of the changes that have gone into effect and will go into effect at a later date:

- If your USDOT number has not been updated according to the FMCSA biennial schedule, you may be subject to a citation at roadside, and your registration denied. You will receive an update letter from FMCSA, once received it is recommended the update process be completed at that time.

DON'T WAIT, TIME IS ALMOST HERE! Effective 10/23/15: A new MCSA-1 form will replace the current MCS-150 form. All processing, including biennial updates **must be submitted on-line**. Updates are required within 30 days of change.

- **Fees: All new applications for USDOT Numbers, and operating authority will be \$300 each.** For example, if the applicant registers for a USDOT No., and registers as both a motor carrier and a broker, the fee will be \$300 each, or \$900 total. (USDOT numbers for **INTRASTATE** carriers will remain at no charge). Exempt for-hire and Private HazMat carriers must file proof of insurance, in addition to all for-hire carriers, brokers, and freight forwarders.

- **All carriers need a Portal account with FMCSA to access URS. For training and information go to:** <https://portal.fmcsa.dot.gov/training/Company>
- **Effective 4/25/16:** Private and exempt for-hire carriers must file a process agent designation, (a process agent is an entity that is identified for the purpose of serving legal papers. It is a legal presence in each state the carrier operates).

Effective Jan. 1, 2016: Fees for Oversize/Overweight (OS/OW) permits will increase to the following:

- Annual Oversize \$ 50
- Annual OS/OW \$400
- Single Trip \$ 35
- All systems Permit \$160.

Motor Carrier Responsible for Safety (MCRS)

All IRP commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) registered within a PRISM State must have a MCRS assigned to it.

- If the MCRS is not going to change during the registration period, the carrier information will be printed on the cab card. However, if the MCRS is going to change during the registration period, that information will not be placed on the cab card. This means the driver must have in his or her possession appropriate documentation to present when stopped at the roadside.
- It is important for IRP account holders to notify our office when the MCRS changes from an OOS carrier to another carrier. Otherwise, the carrier will continue to be stopped when traveling the interstate, due to the vehicle data still being linked to the OOS carrier.

Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services Contact Information:

- **Mailing address:**
P.O. Box 10382, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
- **Physical address:**
6310 SE Convenience Blvd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021 (exit 89 on Interstate 35)
- **Counter hours:** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
New registrant customers must arrive by 2 p.m.
- **Email:** omcs@dot.iowa.gov
- **Website:** www.iowadot.gov/iftairp
- Commercial vehicle titles 515-237-3110
515-237-3056 Fax
- Motor carrier audits 515-239-1030
515-239-1874 Fax

For questions regarding OS/OW, Fuel & Trip Permits, IFTA, IRP, UCR and Travel Authority, visit our website at www.iowadot.gov. If your questions are not answered you may either email us at omcs@dot.iowa.gov or call us at one of the numbers below.

- Fuel and trip permits, and Oversize/Overweight permits 515-237-3264
515-237-3257 Fax
- IFTA fuel tax, IRP registration, UCR and Travel authority 515-237-3268
515-237-3225 Fax

Iowa Fuel Tax Rate Changes Effective July 1, 2015: With the enactment of Senate File 257 on Feb. 25, 2015, Iowa fuel tax rates changed. Please see the table below for all applicable tax rates and their effective dates.

Iowa Fuel Tax Rates

Fuel Type	Effective Dates	
	March 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015	Effective July 1, 2015
Gasoline	\$0.31/gal	\$0.308/gal
Alcohol	\$0.29gal	\$0.293/gal
Ethanol Blended Gasoline	\$0.29/gal	\$0.293/gal
E85	\$0.29/gal	\$0.293/gal
Diesel (including biodiesel B10 and lower)	0.325/gal	0.325/gal
Biodiesel B11 or Higher	\$0.325/gal*	\$0.295/gal
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	\$0.30/gal	\$0.30/gal
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	\$0.325/gal	\$0.325/gal
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	\$0.31/gal	\$0.31/gal

***Prior to July 1, 2015 Biodiesel B11 or Higher is included in the Diesel fuel tax rate.**

Prior to Mar. 1, 2015 tax rates for motor fuel, which includes ethanol-blended fuel classified as E10 or higher and gasoline, were based on a fuel distribution percentage formula. On Mar. 1, 2015 that formula was extended and modified resulting in tax rate changes to select fuel types.

Beginning July 1, 2015 a fuel distribution percentage formula will be established for diesel fuel, as the basis for distinct tax rates for biodiesel blended fuel classified as B11 or higher and all other diesel fuel.

There is no inventory tax associated with the rate changes.

Claims for fuel tax refund must be calculated using the correct rates based on the date of purchase. The telephone refund system has now been updated with the new tax rates, and is available to use for invoice dates on or after Mar. 1, 2015. The system can still be used to claim refunds for periods prior to Mar. 1, 2015 as well. The system will calculate refunds using the correct tax rates for the invoice dates.

For questions regarding this, please visit their website at: <https://tax.iowa.gov/iowa-fuel-tax-rate-changes-effective-july-1-2015>.



A Goal We Can All Live With

Zero Fatalities is Iowa’s safety goal. Most crashes are caused by human error and can be avoided. Fatal crashes can be prevented. They are not inevitable. We’ve identified some of the most dangerous things that are killing people on Iowa’s roads. They are speeding, driving impaired, driving distracted, driving drowsy, and not buckling up. We don’t have to convince people that Zero Fatalities is a good goal. Everyone already has that goal for themselves and their loved ones. If every family focused on these five behaviors, chances are they’ll get to Zero Fatalities as well.


- Slow down.
- Drive sober.
- Focus on the road.
- Stay alert.
- Buckle up. Every seat, every time.

New federal regulations regarding your Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)

OFFICIAL NOTICE FROM THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

YOUR COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE WILL EXPIRE SOON.

New federal regulations require you to bring proof of citizenship or lawful presence to renew your CDL.



 You must bring one of the following documents to renew your CDL (required)

- Certified copy of U.S. birth certificate
- Valid U.S. passport
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Permanent resident card (lawful permanent residents)

You’re also required to prove your Iowa residency.
Bring your current CDL showing your Iowa address. If you do not have your current CDL, bring any document with your name and address, such as a utility bill, pay stub, or any piece of mail with a postmark or stamped date.

 Get a REAL ID-compliant license (optional)

Since you must bring the documents to the left, you’re only two short steps away from getting a REAL ID license if you want one. *Just bring two additional items with you.*

- Proof of Social Security Number (SSN)
- Additional proof of your Iowa residency

 If your CDL has a gold star in the upper right-hand corner, it’s a REAL ID license, and no additional documentation is required. Just bring your current CDL.
**Permanent residents or temporary foreign nationals must provide proof of lawful status whenever issued a license.*

REAL ID requirements will affect travel beginning Oct. 1, 2020. Visit: www.iowadot.gov/realid

TO RENEW YOUR CDL (required)

CHECKLIST

FOR REAL ID (optional)

 Proof of citizenship or lawful presence

 Proof of Iowa residency

 Proof of Social Security Number

 Additional document showing proof of Iowa residency

IRP Reporting periods and credential display information

1. The distance reporting period for registrants whose IRP renewal is prior to September 2015 is **July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014**, for registrants whose IRP renewal is September 2015 or after, the distance reporting period is **July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015**.

2. The 2290 reporting period is **July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 OR July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016**.
***If the October renewal is RECEIVED in September, you may use either reporting period.**

3. 2016 credentials must be displayed on/before your current credentials expire. If the 2016 credentials are displayed prior to your current credentials expiring, both the 2015 **and** 2016 cab cards must be carried in the vehicle.

Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)

Each year, interstate carriers, leasing companies, brokers, and freight forwarders who cross the state line while operating a self-propelled or towed vehicle on highways in commerce that meets one of the conditions listed below are required to obtain a UCR.

- It has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater.
- It is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, including the driver.
- It is transporting USDOT-regulated hazardous material that requires placarding.

The enforcement date to register for a 2016 UCR is: **Jan. 1, 2016**. Failing to file and pay the registration fee can result in a citation and fine.

Filing for UCR

In as little as 10 minutes, carriers can renew and pay for their UCR beginning **Oct. 1, 2015** from any computer or smartphone with Internet access at www.ucr.in.gov. Before you start, be sure you:

- Know the USDOT number.
- Have a credit card or checkbook available.
- Be aware that the computer session will timeout if there is significant idle time. If that happens, close the Internet window and begin the process again.

If a carrier is no longer in operation or never crosses the state line and wishes to avoid further UCR renewal notices, the carrier must inactivate or update its USDOT number.

Note: Any power units registered under IRP are subject to UCR fees.



Why involve the trucking industry in the fight against human trafficking?

Ongoing sting operations by the FBI and other law enforcement personnel reveal that criminals and crime syndicates sell their wares at a number of locations frequented by truckers. Only in this case, their product isn't drugs, it's people – victims of human trafficking. Since 2004, these sting operations have rescued hundreds of children, recovered millions of dollars and arrested numerous perpetrators.

Whether at schools, malls, online sites, streets or neighborhoods, traffickers target our children – boys and girls, teens and young women – drugging, coercing, beating, threatening, and selling them for sex, as well as labor, and making millions. Some of these victims are as young as 11 years old ... some are even younger.

Traffickers targeting truckers as consumers continually move their “goods” along circuits that each cover multiple states.

But truckers, in the course of their daily work – and because they're continually on the move – can help stop this ... through observation, overhearing conversations, being trained in what to look for and by tools and instruction on what to do.

Truckers Against Trafficking

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) ® began in March 2009 as an initiative of Chapter 61 Ministries to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking industry on the critical role they can play in fighting one of the most lucrative and destructive crimes in the United States and globally.

Today, TAT is a 501c3 organization with three main goals to accomplish our mission:

- Have our TAT materials made a regular part of training/ orientation for members of the trucking industry, so when they suspect human trafficking, they'll call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 and report what they know.
- Partner with law enforcement to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
- Marshal the resources of the trucking industry to combat this crime.

We provide a website,

www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org; a trucking-industry-specific training DVD; webinars; human trafficking presentations; wallet cards truckers can carry with information to help them recognize trafficking and call the NHTRC number when it is suspected; posters and other materials the trucking industry can use for publicity and promotion; and the Freedom Drivers Project — a 48' mobile exhibit designed to educate audiences about the realities of domestic sex trafficking and how the trucking industry is combating it.

TAT also works to build coalitions between members of law enforcement, anti-trafficking organizations and key industry stakeholders, including general managers of truck stops and travel plazas, large carriers and state trucking associations, to further the apprehension of traffickers and the recovery of victims. We interact with appropriate state and national agencies to have our materials used in all venues involving trucking and strategize with state and local law enforcement and government on additional ways the trucking industry can provide invaluable help. And we continually strive to help the trucking industry develop its unique contribution and leadership in the fight against human trafficking.

For more information on Truckers Against Trafficking or find out how you can help, contact

tat.truckers@gmail.com or visit

www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org.

Make the Call, Save Lives.

1-888-3737-888

Biennial Update

USDOT Compliance Information

How Do I File My Biennial Update?

Motor carriers, hazardous material safety permit applicants/holders, and intermodal equipment providers regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) must update their registration information every two years (biennial updates). Failure to comply with the biennial update requirements will result in penalties and USDOT number deactivation.

To File Your Biennial Update:

- Go to www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate, sign in using the PIN provided in your warning notice from FMCSA, and complete the biennial update process.
- You may also complete the biennial update process by mail or by fax. Go to www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate and request or download the MC-150 form. Complete the form and follow the provided instructions for mailing or faxing it to FMCSA.



For more information visit www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate or call (800) 832-5660



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

USDOT COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

Why was I issued this citation/warning?

You have been issued a citation or warning because your company is not in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) biennial registration update requirements. Your company must update its registration information with FMCSA every two years. Failure to do so will result in the assessment of civil penalties and deactivation of your USDOT number.

Your Next Steps

To Avoid Additional Penalties:

- Go to www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate, sign in using your PIN, and complete the biennial update process.
- If your business has an inactive USDOT number for reasons other than new entrant issues, select "biennial update or changes" in the "reason for filing" section. If your USDOT number has been revoked because of a new entrant issue, select "reapplication (after revocation of new entrant)."
- You may also register by mail or by fax. Go to www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate and request or download the MC-150 form. Complete the form and follow the provided instructions for mailing or faxing to FMCSA.



For more information visit www.fmcsa.dot.gov/BiennialUpdate or call (800) 832-5660



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

FILING SCHEDULE

If your USDOT number ends in:	You must file by the last day of:
1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August
9	September
0	October

If the next-to-last digit of your USDOT Number is odd, file your update every odd-numbered calendar year. If the next-to-last digit of your USDOT Number is even, file your update every even-numbered calendar year.